



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 30, 2003

S. 344 **Native Hawaiian Recognition Act of 2003**

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on May 14, 2003

S. 344 would establish a process for a Native Hawaiian government to be constituted and recognized by the federal government. CBO estimates that implementing S. 344 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. The bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 344 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Enacting this legislation could lead to the creation of a new government to represent native Hawaiians. The transfer of any lands or other assets to this new government, including lands now controlled by the state of Hawaii, would be the subject of future negotiations. Similarly, federal payments to native Hawaiians following recognition of a Native Hawaiian government would depend on future legislation.

The bill would establish the United States Office for Native Hawaiian Relations within the Department of the Interior (DOI) to coordinate services to native Hawaiians. In addition, S. 344 would establish the Native Hawaiian Interagency Coordinating Group to coordinate federal programs and policies that affect native Hawaiians. Based on information from DOI, CBO expects that the agency would require up to five additional employees to implement the bill. Therefore, CBO estimates that implementing S. 344 would cost less than \$500,000 a year, subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Lanette J. Walker (for federal costs), and Marjorie Miller (for the impact on state, local, and tribal governments). This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.